

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
29 AUGUST 1977

CIA 401 MKULTRA

ORQ1 Society for the
Investigation of Human
Ecology
Rogers, Carl (orig under
Barney)

The CIA and the encounter movement's patron saint

By Walter Barney
Science Writer

Carl Rogers says he didn't think much of it at the time, but the first research grant that enabled him to study "client-centered therapy," which has revolutionized psychotherapy in the last 25 years, came from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Rogers, who is not widely known to the general public, is practically the patron saint of the encounter movement. His emphasis on the shared responsibility of patient and therapist has been adopted by therapists and consciousness groups of every stripe.

The American Psychological Association has honored him with two symposia on "Carl Rogers at 75" at its convention here.

The New York Times disclosed this month that in the early 1950s Rogers was on the board of the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology, a CIA front for funneling money to scientists investigating ways to control human behavior.

Rogers was a little embarrassed at the publicity even an episode he had almost forgotten, but not at all unwilling to talk about it during his visit here.

He was recruited, he said, by Col. James Monroe, an Air Force expert on brainwashing. This was at the time when American prisoners of war in Korea were being subjected to the Communist side under intensive psychological pressure from their captors.

"James Monroe told me they were working on various things involving national security and that Harold Wilson, a noted neurologist whom I had a lot of respect for, was head of the enterprise, and he wondered if I would join their board of directors," Rogers said.

"I said, well, I thought he had me wrong because I was interested in pursuing my own interests. I was not about to get involved in government research.

"I don't know if he said it in so many words, but he gave me the impression that they intended to fund some perfectly straight research projects as well as their own research.

"The only money we ever got from them we used to pursue our own research. There was one grant, paid in two installments. We were just getting started.

studying the process and outcomes of client-centered therapy, and this was the first grant we got."

Rogers then was teaching at the University of Wisconsin.

"I have no recollection of when I resigned or got out," Rogers continued. "I thought the whole thing just faded away. We never took any specific action... we held a few meetings of the board of directors, just sort of rubber-stamp meetings."

The Times reported, from CIA documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, that the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology funded research on brainwashing and on the effects of LSD.

Brainwashing, Rogers said, "seemed to me to be the reverse of psychotherapy; in some respects it added to the validity of psychotherapy. But I was never involved in any of this secret research."

"At the time," Rogers said, "it did seem that we had enemies trying to infiltrate us and we needed some kind of protection. Now I'm not so sure. I thought we were defending our security; I didn't think they were being so goddamned active in their spying."

The Times reported that the CIA was trying to develop drugs that would render a person susceptible to another's control and even erase the memory of the

continued